



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

NICOLE PARRA

Representing the 30th Assembly District



Parra Notes

March 3, 2006

Hello Friends:

THE WEEK IN SACRAMENTO

This week, I started out by meeting with **Cindy LaMarr** of **Capitol Area Indian Resources, Inc. (CAIR)** to discuss academic and cultural issues affecting Native American youth in California.

CAIR was formed in 1985 to provide academic assistance and culturally related activities for American Indian youth residing in the Sacramento area. The primary funding source is provided through the **California State Department of Education**. American Indian youth in grades K-12 are eligible to participate in programs offered through CAIR.

To find out more about **CAIR**, please contact their **Program Coordinator, Regina Quintero**, at **(916) 971-9190**.

The **Superintendent of McFarland Unified School District, Jim Schiffman**, also stopped by to say hello and to update me on the different projects the school district has undertaken.

Also this week, **Dwight Hansen**, a representative from the **California Rehabilitation Association (CRA)**, stopped by my office to speak with me about issues related to people with disabilities. We had a great meeting and I learned much about the noble work the **CRA** does.

The **CRA** is committed to improving the lives of people with developmental, vocational or medical disabilities by providing advocacy, business support, education and networking opportunities to a number of rehabilitation organizations.

For more information, please view their web site at <http://www.calrehab.org/>.

My staff also sat down with **Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)** to hear about their concerns relating to the environment, business, and the economy.

Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) is a national coalition of business professionals who fight to protect the environment while building economic prosperity. Along with the **Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)**, **E2** serves as a champion on the economic side of positive environmental policy by taking a reasonable and sound approach to environmental issues. **E2** operates on both the state and national levels via its bipartisan efforts.

For additional information on this really interesting organization, please check their web site at <http://www.e2.org>.

The **Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court, Ronald George**, gave his annual **State of the Judiciary** address on the Assembly Floor on Tuesday evening. We listened as **Chief Justice George** gave us an update on the status of the state's judicial system and the progress that it has

made over the last decade in moving toward an even fairer and more efficient application of our laws.

California's local conservation corps and **YouthBuild** organizations convened in **Sacramento** for their annual **Government Education Day** – over 1,000 young men and women from across the state attended this event. I addressed the assembly of participants and stressed to them the importance of always working hard and never losing the drive to achieve, and to always strive to make oneself better.

I would like to thank **Bob Hennessy, Founder and Executive Director of the San Jose Conservation Corps and Charter School**, and **Scott Dosick, President of Capital Pathways, LLC**, for all their hard work in staging yet another highly successful event.

Later in the week, I met with the following **Kern County** education officials: **Dr. Larry Rider, County Superintendent; Don Carter, Superintendent of Kern High School District; Mary Barlow, Superintendent of Kernville Elementary School; Jamie Hendersen, Superintendent of Rosedale School District; Gary Rice, Superintendent of Greenfield School District; Gary Bray, Superintendent of Wasco Elementary; Jody Rummer, Superintendent of Sierra Sands School District; Wally Melormick, Superintendent of Norris School District; Jim Schiffman, Superintendent of McFarland School District; Bud Burrows, Chief Bussiness Officer; Christine Frasier, Associate Superintendent of Kern County; and Michael Hulsizer**

We discussed how this year's budget will affect education and also the status of education and schools in both Kern County and across California.

I also spent some time with representatives from **Leadership Tulare**, a program of the **Tulare Chamber of Commerce** that is designed to develop and sustain leaders within the Tulare community. The purpose of the program is to provide a positive forum that will prepare, involve and expose a diverse group, committed to addressing the challenges facing Tulare's community.

For more information, please access their web site at <http://www.tularechamber.org/leadership.cfm>.

Later in the week, public television representatives from **KVPT** met with me to talk about possibly using public television in the 30th Assembly District as a way to promote different community programs and events. I think it might be a great way to keep all of our communities informed and up-to-date with the latest goings on in our district.

To learn more about **KVPT**, please check them out online at www.kvpt.org/.

I also met with **Caroline Rose, Stan Patrick and Bob Hogskins of Community Services Employment Training (CSET) Tulare County** and some of their corps members to discuss issues affecting the youth of our state.

For more information on **CSET Tulare County**, please view their web site at www.cset.org.

Toward the end of the week, I was visited by representatives from **Community Medical Centers (CMC)** in **Fresno**. This meeting gave me a chance to meet some of their senior management personnel and also to discuss issues, like **Medi-Cal**, with **CMC** officials.

Community Medical Centers has an impressive history of medical achievement and compassionate care. Comprising of over 6,200 employees and 1,100 physicians, it also is the largest and most comprehensive hospital system in the **San Joaquin Valley**. **CMC** is a nonprofit,

To find out more about **Community Medical Centers**, please view their web site at <http://www.communitymedical.org/>.

COMING NEXT WEEK

On March 8, the **Joint Legislative Audit Committee**, of which I am the Chair, will be holding a hearing on issues ranging from substance abuse programs to education to health care. One additional item has been added to the agenda for next week's hearing, during which we will also evaluate an audit request from **Senator Dave Cox** regarding **California's First Five Commission**.

As always, I will keep you updated on the happenings at the hearing next week.

ONGOING EVENT

When you have some free time, please join **Pastor Jordan, Isiah Crompton**, and other community members in their effort to get out the message about stopping violence in our communities. They walk from house to house every Saturday, knocking on doors and explaining to people the importance of keeping an eye on and working against violence in our neighborhoods. I would like to invite everyone, from individuals, to families, to groups of friends, and any concerned organizations to join us in making our streets safer for our families and our children. For more information on the **Stop the Violence** campaign, please contact **Pastor Jordan at (661) 472-2637**.

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Any students interested in nursing careers should strongly consider applying for the **Associate Degree Nursing Scholarship at Bakersfield College**. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE TO APPLY!**

I know how stressful it can be to have to worry about taking out student loans to pay for college, but you never have to repay scholarship money.

For more information on applying for the **Fall 2006/Spring 2007** scholarship call the **Health Professionals Education Foundation** at **1-800-773-1669** or visit www.healthprofessions.ca.gov. The application **deadline** for the fall 2006/spring 2007 school year scholarship is **March 24th 2006**.

Youth In Need

The **California Coalition for Youth's (CCY)** mission is to be the **PLACE** that improves and empowers the lives of California's youth by:

- Partnering with youth
- Linking with youth-serving programs throughout California
- Advocating for youth rights
- Connecting youth to resources
- Educating communities, policymakers, and stakeholders

The **CCY** also coordinates a statewide, toll free, 24-hour, confidential phone crisis line available to young people between the ages of 12-24, and concerned friends and family members. **CCY** provides crisis intervention counseling on many issues including family problems, sexual assault, eating disorders, teen pregnancy, substance abuse, suicide and more. **CCY** offers support, encouragement, and referrals to youth needing assistance or in crisis situations. The **California Youth Crisis Line** connects an average of 12,000 callers with vital resources annually. Agencies as well as young adults from every county in California use the Crisis **Line's toll-free number, 1-800-843-5200**.

NEED HOMEWORK HELP?

The **California State Library** has made available through their website a new service called **Live Homework Help**. This service enables students to connect on-line with a tutor for assistance with homework questions. Supported by Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) federal funding, students can access Live Homework Help through [28 California public libraries](http://www.library.ca.gov/public-libraries). It is important to note that the tutors who respond to student questions are screened, trained, and closely monitored.

Live Homework Help is easy! Log on to <http://www.library.ca.gov/tutor/> from your computer any

time between **1:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.** and follow the simple setup instructions.

CALIFORNIA YOUTH CONNECTION

The **California Youth Connection (CYC)** is a statewide organization comprised of foster youth, both past and present, who work diligently in formulating policies and advocating for legislation on behalf of California's foster youth population.

For more information on **CYC**, please visit their web site at <http://www.calyouthconn.org/site/cyc/> or simply call **CYC's** statewide office at 415-442-5060.

MEETING REQUESTS

If you or your organization would like to set up a time to meet with me or would like for me to attend an event you are sponsoring, please feel free to contact my **Executive Secretary Ellen Manolis** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Ellen.Manolis@asm.ca.gov.

INTERNS WANTED

I am accepting applications for the fall internship program in my **Hanford, Bakersfield and Sacramento** offices. Candidates should be residents of the 30th Assembly District, possess solid research and communication skills, and have a strong interest in public policy and political issues facing the Central Valley. Applications can be found by going to:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30>.

For Hanford office internships contact **Matt Rogers** at (559) 585-7170 or by e-mail at Matt.Rogers@asm.ca.gov.

For Bakersfield office internships contact **Paula DeLaRiva** at (661) 334-3745 or by e-mail at Paula.DeLaRiva@asm.ca.gov.

For Sacramento office internships contact **Brandon Sanders** at (916) 319-2030 or by e-mail at Brandon.Sanders@asm.ca.gov.

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Web Site: <http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a30/>

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